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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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JACK ANDERSON**Syrians Aiding
Heroin Traffic
In Bekaa Valley**

The Syrians aren't clinging so stubbornly to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley just to protect their flank against Israeli attack. They're also protecting a multibillion-dollar drug traffic involving top-ranking Syrian military and civilian officials.

High-quality hashish and heroin are smuggled out of the valley through Syria to various western capitals. The smugglers are given safe passage by the Syrian military in exchange for payoffs.

From intelligence sources, my associate Indy Badhwar has obtained a confidential report that details the whole story. The highlights:

- A pivotal role in the dope traffic is played by the Syrian secret service, Al-Istikhbarat As-Souriat, also called the SS. The SS brought in Turkish experts to grow opium poppies in the Bekaa Valley. The SS uses the money from drugs to bank-roll terrorist attacks and to recruit and control spies, as well as line its own pockets.

- Like Chicago gangsters in the 1920s, Syrian generals have carved out their own exclusive territories to

keep things on a businesslike basis. One dust-up occurred between two rival generals, Mohammed Ghanem and Ghazi Kenaan. Terms of a "peace treaty" gave Kenaan the take from smugglers in the Lebanese city of Shatura, while Ghanem exacts tribute at the Syrian border post of Al-Massna.

- The northern Lebanon truck routes are controlled by Syrian security chief Rifaat Assad, President Hafez Assad's younger brother. His minions share income from the northern drug roads with Ali Eid, an Alawite Moslem agent in the port of Tripoli. The drug convoys, under Syrian army protection, travel the roads from Baalbek, Lebanon, into Syria through the remote village of Sarghaya.

- Syrian military helicopters have been used to ship tons of hashish from the town of Nihaa in the Bekaa Valley to Syria, whence it goes to Europe. Drugs bound for Alexandria, Egypt, are shipped from the Syrian-controlled Lebanese port of Anfa aboard the ship "Hassan," under the watchful eye of Syrian agent Mustafa Al Farass. Last summer, Egyptian officials seized 3,200 kilograms of Bekaa Valley dope.

- The list of officers enriching themselves from the drug trade is a veritable "Who's Who" of the Syrian army. Fingering in the intelligence report were Syria's defense minister, Mustafa Talas, and Army chief Hik-

mat Al-Shahaby. They were reported to be dealing with Syria's top drug dealers, Ahmad Mustafa Al-Lakkiss and Hussein Abdel Ghani Tleiss.

- One top drug dealer, Jamil Abdel Karim Hamieh, from the Bekaa Valley village of Taraya, receives full Syrian military protection. "When his car passes through a Syrian checkpoint, the Syrian soldiers do not dare stop it or question him," the report states. "Hamieh also has close ties to defense minister Talas."

Blunder of the Week: More than a year ago, three F16 fighter planes crashed and the cause has never been nailed down. One reason is that the planes were not equipped with flight data recorders, the black boxes that are required on commercial airliners and help crash investigators figure out what happened.

The crash prompted the inspector generals of the Air Force, Army and Navy to recommend development of a standard flight data recorder to be installed in all military planes. But some of the Pentagon brass are resisting this sensible move, on grounds that it would be too costly.

My sources suggest a different reason: that some military officials would rather not know if a crash was caused by defective equipment. That would embarrass not only the plane's manufacturer, but also the Pentagon people who were supposed to make sure it was in A1 condition.

WASHINGTON TIMES

1 FEBRUARY 1984 Pg. 6

France, Soviets to sign pact

PARIS — France and the Soviet Union will sign a long-term economic cooperation agreement today, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy's office announced yesterday.

The announcement came as a surprise in Paris because French officials previously had said nothing about such an agreement being under negotiation.

No details of the pact were immediately available. The agreement was concluded during the present visit to Paris by Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov who met with Mr. Mauroy and President Francois Mitterrand yesterday for talks on French-Soviet trade.

PEACE PLAN**...Continued**

pean nations plus the United States and Canada. Albania is the only European nation not attending.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, the Soviet Union said it cannot accept the trade-offs suggested by U.S. negotiator Edward Rowny for a resumption of arms control talks, saying he had voiced optimism while "lost in a maze of sophistry."

The comments came in a response by the official news agency Tass to Mr. Rowny's remarks Monday that a Soviet signal of readiness to return to the negotiating table could lead to progress toward an agreement.